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11 DEC 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

HIRANO

Atty. Dck. No. SAS-0203

Serial No.: New Application

Examiner:

Filed: December 11, 2001

Art Unit:

For: SHEATH TUBE, AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING
THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: December 11, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to the examination of this application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claim 8 as follows. A copy of the marked-up original claim is attached showing the changes as set forth in amended 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

8. (Amended) A sheath tube manufacturing method according to any one of claim 5 and claim 6, wherein said ribbon-like member is formed of a thermoplastic synthetic resin.

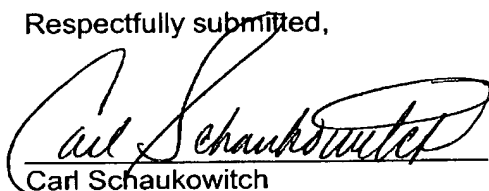
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REMARKS

The above amendments to the claim have been made to correct the multiple dependency of the claims and to put the application in better condition for examination. No new matter has been added.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013

Respectfully submitted,



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and Claim 6

8. A sheath tube manufacturing method according to any one of claim 5[^][to claim 7] wherein said ribbon-like member is formed of a thermoplastic synthetic resin.
9. A sheath tube manufacturing method according to claim 8, wherein said thermoplastic synthetic resin is transparent or semi-transparent.
10. A sheath tube manufacturing apparatus comprising:
 - a wrapping section having a core for wrapping a single ribbon-like member having a predetermined width thereon;
 - a member supply section for supplying said ribbon-like member at a predetermined angle, so that said ribbon-like member are wrapped spirally, with the end thereof overlapped and;
 - a rotation section for rotating said wrapping section;
 - a welding section for fusing and pressing the overlapped portion of the ribbon-like member wrapped around said wrapping section; and
 - a member delivery section for pressing the fused overlapped portion and delivering it from said core.
11. A sheath tube manufacturing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said member supply section is provided with heating means for heating the whole wrapped portion of the ribbon-like member, when said ribbon-like member is wrapped around said wrapping section.
12. A sheath tube manufacturing apparatus according to either one of claim 10 and claim 11, wherein said ribbon-like member is formed of a thermoplastic synthetic resin.
13. A sheath tube manufacturing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said thermoplastic synthetic resin is transparent or semi-transparent.

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